

AmCham's CSR Committee Launches Sustainable Talks Initiative

The CSR Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce launched its Sustainable Talks initiative on June 14, 2018, at Athineo, Athenian Brewery's Creative Brewing Space, in Athens. The initiative is a series of single-topic discussions that aim to serve as a platform for constructive dialogue on the integration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the Greek business reality. At this first Sustainable Talks event, titled "Plastic Dreams and Nightmares," Christina Kontaxi, Managing Director of the Mediterranean SOS Network (MedSOS), discussed how plastic products can be designed, produced, used and recycled to generate a positive environmental, financial and social impact. Plastics make up the largest part of marine litter in seas and coasts around Greece, negatively impacting ecosystems, biodiversity and potentially human health. Kontaxi stressed that the most important step towards dealing with the plastics issue is to create a paradigm shift towards a circular economy by promoting and implementing reuse practices. The discussion was moderated by Kiara Konti, Senior Manager for Climate Change and Sustainability Services at EY and member of AmCham's CSR Committee. MedSOS works to boost citizen awareness and engagement through its various campaigns—such as the Clean Up the Med initiative and the PTwist program—that aim to contribute to strengthening circular economy practices. Through awareness, sustainable practices and innovation, the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce supports a new plastics economy vision. The 1st Sustainable Talks event was sponsored by Athenian Brewery.

CHRISTINA KONTAXI AND KIARA KONTI



2nd Trading in U.S. Waters Seminar



SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS AND JOE HUGHES, CHAIRMAN, NAMEPA, CHAIRMAN & CEO, THE AMERICAN CLUB

The 2nd Trading in U.S. Waters Seminar, titled "Priorities and Solutions," was held on Thursday, June 7, at the Metropolitan Expo Center. It took place during the Posidonia 2018 International Shipping Exhibition, which was held June 4-8 this year. More than 350 individuals, largely representatives of the global shipping and business community, attended the seminar, which was designed to give the local shipping and maritime stakeholders a comprehensive overview of U.S. requirements for vessels visiting U.S. ports. The event was organized by AmCham and NAMEPA, in cooperation with the Commercial Section of the U.S. Embassy, the International Propeller Club of the United States (International Port of Piraeus) and the Maritime Hellas Maritime Cluster. It was held under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy in Athens.



STELIOS STYLIANIDIS

3RD WIB DIALOGUE SERIES

The Women in Business (WIB) Committee hosted its 3rd WIB Dialogue Series, titled "The Challenge of Well-being in Today's Uncertain Times," on June 27 at Domotel Kastri Hotel. Keynote speaker Dr. Stelios Stylianidis, Professor of Social Psychiatry at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens spoke about the concept of happiness and about the various ways in which modern humans are dealing with the unpredictability of our times. He further suggested a number of coping strategies based on the premise that we have to learn to live in turbulence and lack of control and go with the flow. The event was supported by Kafkas, MindSearch, Pharmathen, and the Public Power Corporation.

HealthWorld 2018

The 17th annual HealthWorld Conference, titled "Health in the Post-Memorandum Era," took place June 11-12, at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel. It focused on the key chronic issues in the health sector in Greece, the new challenges that have arisen during the bailout years, the importance of maintaining a stable environment that will allow for the introduction of innovative therapies and medicines in Greece, and on the impact that the exit from the bailout program will have on healthcare in the country. The keynote speech was given by Minister of Health Andreas Xanthos, who spoke about forthcoming reforms that will address issues in primary healthcare, aiming at universal coverage of the population and guaranteed access for the uninsured. AmCham President Simos Anastasopoulos reiterated the conference's goal, "to contribute productively to the creation of a modern, sustainable and predictable healthcare system." AmCham Pharmaceutical Committee Chair Makis Papataxiarchis, and AmCham Medical Devices and Diagnostics Committee Chair Theodore Liakopoulos both spoke about the importance of introducing new technologies and innovation into healthcare in order to improve the standard of service, costs and patient outcomes. U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt noted that by being a catalyst for research and innovation, the health sector can play a key role in ensuring that Greece's return to world markets will succeed. He added that it is ultimately up to Greece itself to create the conditions that will attract and retain new investments and pointed out that maintaining an open line of communication between the industry and the government is critical to ensuring that key stakeholders in the health sector remain engaged in finding solutions to common problems. The conference was organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, the Hellenic Association of Pharmaceutical Companies (SFEE), the Association of Health Research and Biotechnology (SEIV), the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), and Medtech Europe.

SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS



MAKIS PAPATAXIARCHIS



GEOFFREY PYATT



ANDREAS XANTHOS



CHRISTOS CHARPANTIDIS

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

On May 16, AmCham's Employment Committee hosted a workshop titled "The 4th Industrial Revolution in Greece Today: An Opportunity or a Threat?" at the new Papastratos facility in Aspropyrgos. Designed for young people between 19 and 29, the workshop focused on new technologies and their impact on the job market, the role of women in the fourth industrial revolution, the generation gap, and the skills needed to succeed in the future workplace. The workshop was sponsored by Papastratos and included presentations by AmCham President Simos Anastasopoulos, Papastratos CEO Christos Charpantidis, and AmCham Employment Committee Chair Venetia Koussia. Other participants included Jiorgis Kristotakis of Accenture, Antonis Monokoursos of Oracle, Theodoros Proestos of Mytilineos, Georgia Stergiopoulou of Athens International Airport, and Vaso Kollia, former Secretary General for Equality at the Ministry of the Interior.

VENETIA KOUSSIA



TradeUSA Participates in Two Major U.S. Trade Shows

The TradeUSA Department of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce participated in two major trade shows in the U.S. in June and July 2018: the International Dairy-Deli-Bakery Show (IDDBA) and the Summer Fancy Food Show (SFFS).

IDDBA Show 2018, held on June 10-12 in New Orleans, LA, brought together key companies, buyers, merchandisers, manufacturers, brokers, distributors and other industry professionals. Featuring 2,089 booths and drawing a crowd of over 10,000 visitors, the event provided ample networking and business growth opportunities as well as presentations from industry influencers and experts.

SFFS 2018, which featured Greece as the honored country, was organized by the Specialty Food Association (SFA) and took place June 30-July 2 at the Jacob Javitz Center in New York. A total of 55 Greek companies represented Greece at the show, which featured 2,400 exhibitors from 54 countries around the globe. SFFS is the largest North American marketplace devoted exclusively to specialty food and beverage producers and buyers, with more than 200,000 innovative food products on display. Looking ahead to the 3rd ExportUSA Forum, AmCham's TradeUSA team had a dynamic presence in all networking events and met with various stakeholders including European Imports, HyVee, Fairway, H-E-B, Atalanta Corporation, and KeHE Distributors. The 3rd ExportUSA Forum, titled "FoodUSA: Innovation and Disruption is ON," will be held on Monday, September 10, 2018 during TIF 2018, the much anticipated 83rd Thessaloniki International Fair in which the United States will be the honored country. The 3rd ExportUSA Forum is scheduled as an official event of the U.S. Pavilion at TIF 2018.

IDDBA



SFFS 2018



GEOFFREY PYATT, PANAGIOTIS KOUROUMLIS, ALEXIS TSIPRAS, SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS, GEORGE XIRADAKIS

U.S. PAVILION AT POSIDONIA 2018

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the U.S. Pavilion at Posidonia 2018 took place on June 4, at the Metropolitan ExpoCenter at Athens International Airport and was marked by great success. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Minister of Shipping, Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy Panagiotis Kouroumlis, U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt, President of the International Propeller Club of the U.S. George Xiradakis, and AmCham President Simos Anastasopoulos cut the ribbon.

CHAMBER CALENDAR

September 7 Thessaloniki, The MET Hotel, South East Europe Energy Forum

September 8-16 Thessaloniki, HELEXPO, TIF 2018, U.S.A. Honored Country

September 10 Thessaloniki, Ioannis Vellidis Congress Centre, 3rd Export USA Forum

September 12 Thessaloniki, Ioannis Vellidis Congress Centre, Cybersecurity and Data Protection Conference

September - October Athens, ATHEXGROUP premises, 3rd MIW Awards Ceremony

October 8-10 Washington, USA, AUSA 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo / Hellenic Pavilion

October 8 or 10 Syros, Trade USA Workshop

October 31 Athens, Benaki Museum, 16th Annual CSR Conference